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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
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SUBJECT: Snap Beans. Information from the garden specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture.

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One gardener says, in a poetic vein, "I think that I have never seen a plant prolific as the bean." Then he went on to explain, "It's easy to sow, it's easy to grow. Just put it in the ground and use your hoe," He finished up with, "you'll be surprised at all you'll find. Hundreds of beans on each bush or vine."

While his poetry may be a bit off, his main idea isn't. The garden specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture tell us that snap beans are one of the most profitable of garden crops. You see...they grow well in almost any good garden soil. And they produce for a long time.

But here are a couple of points to watch as the beans are planted. First, if you belong to the school of gardeners who believe in liming their soil...don't overdo it around the beans. They like a soil that's somewhat acid. Next...if you're putting out fertilizer, don't put it directly on the beans you're planting. Because it may injure the seed.

There are a number of different varieties of snap beans. But in a small garden, the pole varieties may be more suitable. Of course, you have to have poles or trellises for the plants to climb on. However, they take less space than the bush varieties. They bear over a longer period of time, too.

A must for most gardeners is...be prepared for the bean beetle. The adult beetle is yellow or brownish with black spots on its back. The beetle larvae, or grubs, are much more destructive though. They're an orangy yellow...and spiny or fuzzy. You look for them on the underside of the bean leaves. One way to kill this pest is to spray with rotenone or cryolite. Another is to go over the bean plants every day...hand-pick the beetles and crush the egg masses. That's not too much trouble to do...because it oftentimes saves the beans.

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